

DECISION RECORD
and
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Emergency Wild Horse Removal, Hill Creek HMA,
EA No. UT-080-2002-0320

Decision

Based on my review of the attached environmental assessment, it is my final decision to select the Proposed Action Alternative. This alternative authorizes an emergency gather and permanent removal of approximately 150 wild horses from the Hill Creek Herd Management Area. Wild horses that are removed would enter the Bureau of Land Management's wild horse adoption program or would be placed in long-term holding facilities.

Due to the emergency nature of these conditions, it is necessary to implement this decision immediately for the protection of the wild horses and in order to maintain a thriving ecological balance of the rangeland resources.

Pursuant to the provisions of 43 CFR 4770.3(c), this decision is placed in **FULL FORCE AND EFFECT** on the date signed, and will remain in full force and effect until modified or revoked by the Interior Board of Land Appeals on an appeal taken from this decision. This decision placed in full force and effect on this date may be considered as the final decision of the Department of the Interior pursuant to the provisions of 5 USC 704 and subject to judicial review in accordance therewith.

PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING THIS DECISION:

Any person who is adversely affected by a decision of the authorized officer in the administration of 43 CFR 4770.3(a)(c) may file an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary. Appeals of a decision of the authorized officer must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days of receipt of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and Form 1842-1. Copies of the notice of appeal **must** also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. The appellant has the burden of showing that the full force and effect decision appealed from is in error.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

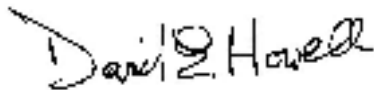
Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental

assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Rationale for Decision:

Rangeland resources within the Hill Creek Herd Management Area are currently being affected by low precipitation levels, hot and dry temperatures, and marginal current year's vegetative growth. An emergency gather of the wild horses by the Vernal Field Office needs to be implemented to avoid the potential of wild horse deaths and serious degradation of rangeland resources. BLM has also received a written request for a private landowner in Willow Creek to remove trespass wild horses from its private lands along the Creek.

The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation and is in conformance with the Book Cliffs Resource Management Plan (1985). The proposed action benefits the resource and helps restore the rangelands to a thriving natural ecological balance. The authority for the reduction in wild horse populations is contained in the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195) sections 3(a) and (b), and Title 43 CFR 4720.1(b). The authority for the Full Force and Effect Decision can be found at 43 CFR 4770.3(c).



David E. Howell
Vernal Field Manager

09-13-02
Date